

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 H-02 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /092 W

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R 141046Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0880

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, SG, XY

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE VIEWS ON ECOWAS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN MAY 2 ARTICLE IN WEEKLY JOURNAL

L'OUEST AFRICAIN, FOREIGN MINISTRY CABINET DIRECTOR YOUSSEPH

SYLLA NOTES FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMMUNAUTE

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ECONOMIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE (CEAO) AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST

AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS). SYLLA WRITES THAT ECOWAS ENVISAGES ZONE OF FREE EXCHANGE IN WHICH MARKET FORCES WILL HAVE FREE PLAY, WHEREAS CEAO HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY INTRO-CEAO TRADE WILL NOT DISRUP EQUILIBRIUM WITHIN CEAO OR HARM ITS WEAKER MEMBERS.

2. ACCORDING TO SYLLA, PROPOSED ECOWAS AGREEMENT IS VIRTUALLY SILENT ON MEASURES TO COMPENSATE MEMBER STATES FOR LOSSES INCURRED UNDER LIBERALIZED TRADING ARRANGEMENTS, LEAVING UNSPECIFIED, FOR EXAMPLE, AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEMBER STATES AND CRITERIA FOR USE OF SUCH FUNDS. SYLLA ALSO POINTS OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MULTILATERAL PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS ARE ENVISAGED BY ECOWAS, NATURE OF THOSE ARRANGEMENTS UNCLEAR. SYLLA CONCLUDES THAT WEST AFRICAN STATES SHOULD AGREE FIRST ON THEIR "ECONOMIC COMMON DEMONINATORS" AND CREATE CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC UNIT (IN OTHER WORDS, BY FIRST DEVELOPING CEAO.) OVERALL EFFECT OF SYLLA ARTICLE IS TO CONTRAST CEAO AS GOING CONCERN WITH ECOWAS AS STILL VAGUE IN ITS INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

4. PARAPHRASE OF ARTICLE WITHOUT BYLINE ALSO APPEARS IN DAKAR BASED WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY LE MONITEUR AFRICAINE. END UNCLASSIFIED

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: SYLLA'S ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE PART OF CAMPAIGN TO MAKE CLEAR RESERVATIONS OF GOS WITH RESPECT TO ECOWAS. IN PAST SENEGAL'S PUBLICLY STATED OBJECTIONS WERE BASED LARGELY ON POSITION THAT WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC UNION HAD NOT BEEN EXTENDED FAR ENOUGH TO EMBRACE ZAIRE (IN ORDER INCLUDE STATE WHICH COULD BALANCE INFLUENCE OF NIGERIA). SYLLA DOES NOT MENTION THIS OBJECTION TO ECOWAS IN HIS CURRENT ARTICLE. END CONFIDENTIAL. AGGREY

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